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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

: Confirmation N . 7551

MAY 14 2003

Yukihiro MATSUMOTO et al.

: Docket No. 2000-0669A

GROUP 1700

Serial No. 09/587,387

: Group Art Unit 1764

Filed June 5, 2000

: Examiner Virginia Manoharan

PROCESS FOR INHIBITING A
POLYMERIZATION IN A VACUUM
SECTION OF AN EASILY POLYMERIZABLE
COMPOUND PURIFICATION SYSTEM

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE
FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Official Action dated February 13, 2003, please amend the present application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, lines 5-10, please rewrite the paragraph as follows:

The present invention relates to a process for inhibiting a polymerization in a vacuum system, which is used for purifying an easily polymerizable compound such as (meth) acrylic acid and (meth) acrylate under a reduced pressure. The invention also relates to the easily polymerizable compound purification system.

Page 2, line 6, to page 3, line 7, please rewrite the paragraphs as follows:

An easily polymerizable compound is usually distilled in the distillation column 1 under a reduced pressure. The pressure inside the distillation column 1 is controlled by the closing and opening of an air regulating valve 8, while the air regulating valve 8 is controlled on the basis of measurements obtained by a pressure gauge 7. Most of the resulting distilled compound is condensed through a condenser.